

65. *Lythotomy.*—Comparative trials of three of the modes of operating for stone, have lately been instituted at the Hôtel Dieu. M. Dupuytren performed on twelve subjects the bilateral operation, M. Breschet the lateral operation on eight, M. Sansom the recto-vesical operation on six. M. Dupuytren lost none of those upon whom he operated, M. Breschet lost two, and M. Sansom one.—*Journal Universel, July, 1827.*

66. *Cancer of the Rectum.*—M. LISFRANC has performed at the Hospital de la Pitié, the amputation of a very extensive cancer, situated upon the lower part of the rectum. The disease extended transversely from one tuberosity of the ischium to the other, and its antero-posterior diameter was about two inches. The finger introduced into the rectum, reached above the indurations, which terminated two inches from the inferior extremity of this intestine. The upper portion of the tumour was very moveable, and could be drawn considerably downwards. M. Lisfranc believed that it affected only the mucous membrane. Two semilunar incisions were made around the ulcerated parts, uniting at their extremities. He dissected from without inwards, as far as the middle of the splincter; by means of the finger introduced into the rectum, he drew down the intestine, so as to occasion the procidentia of the indurated membrane, and removed the whole with the curved scissors. The wound that remained resembled a deep funnel, and it was evident the splincter muscles were in great part destroyed. Two arteries only were tied. The patient recovered after a lapse of three months; he retains his fauces as before, and experiences no pain on going to stool.—*Journal Générale de Médecine.*

67. *Amputation of the Neck of the Uterus.*—M. LISFRANC has performed this operation upon twenty subjects, of which number eighteen have been relieved by the operation, in several of them two years have elapsed since its performance. Of the other four two are in a fair way of recovery, and two died, one twenty-four hours after the operation, and on dissection numerous latent cancers were found along the vertebral column, and in the ovaries; the other three months after, from a return of the disease.—*Archives Générales de Médecine, August, 1827.*

MIDWIFERY.

68. “*Accouchement after the Death of the Mother.*—Dr. KLAATSCH, of Berlin, has related, (in the *Zeitschrift für die Staatsärzneikunde,*) the case of a pregnant female, who was supposed to have been poisoned by her husband with arsenic, in consequence of which suspicion the body was disinterred a month after it had been buried. The fact of her having been poisoned was thus ascertained, and at the same time the phenomenon was discovered of a fetus, about the seventh month, lying between the thighs of the woman; the accouplement having taken place after her death! To explain this circumstance, and similar cases related by various authors, Dr. Klaatsch supposes that the extrication of a quantity of gas in the intestines becomes a mechanical cause of the expulsion of the fetus, accompanied in general with inversion of the uterus, which is facilitated by the complete state of relaxation of that organ. The same opinion was advanced by M. Deneux, in a memoir on this subject published in 1812.”—*Bulletin des Sc. Médicales.*

69. *Cæsarian Section.*—Dr. FAIDZT, Surgeon and Clinical Professor to the Civil Hospital at Prague, has performed this operation three times, two of which were successful; one was in a case of extra-uterine pregnancy.

Case. The wife of a Bohemian peasant, who had previously had one child, the labour perfectly natural, again became pregnant, “and gestation went on

naturally till the end of the sixth month, except that the tumour of the abdomen was more projecting than usual, and inclined towards the right side. After the sixth month, the movements of the child were not sensible; the breasts became enlarged, and milk oozed from them for a short time. There was also slight uterine hemorrhage. At the end of the ninth month labour pains came on, were very severe, but subsided, and returned at intervals of ten days till the end of the eleventh month. She was at this time taken to the hospital and examined by Dr. Krombohoff, Professor of Midwifery in the University of Prague. He found a spheroidal tumour in the vagina, and the os uteri turned toward the left side. The case was pronounced one of extra-uterine pregnancy, and the woman was conveyed into the surgical wards and operated upon by Dr. Fridzt. The incision was six inches in length, extending from half an inch below the umbilicus to the symphysis pubis. The head of the child, which presented, was extracted by a simple manœuvre. The placenta and membranes were left in the abdomen. The child had been dead apparently some time. The wound was united by means of adhesive plaster, about an inch of the inferior portion being left open for the escape of fluids from the abdomen. These were the only means employed. She was once bled from the arm, and leeches were once applied. The wound is now almost completely healed, a small fistulous opening remained only at the inferior portion, from which a healthy pus is secreted. She is now taking tonics, and is allowed meat, but neither wine nor beer. The functions are all becoming natural. Stools have hitherto been procured only by means of enemas. The countenance is animated and cheerful, the pulse small, but not irritable; the appetite good."—*Lond. Med. and Phys. Journ. Nov. 1827.*

70. Case of Hydatids in the Uterus. By W. ANNENSON, M. R. C. S.—"Mrs. E_____, of a spare habit and fair complexion, twenty-two years of age, when about three months pregnant, was much frightened by the fighting of two dogs, which caused her at the time to faint, and for some time afterwards to suffer from great dejection of spirits. This continued to increase till the period of quickening, which she states she distinctly felt; after which she gradually improved in health. The abdomen increased in size, and she seemed likely to go the full period, till about the seventh month when slight hemorrhage came on, with bearing down pains; this, however, was checked and removed by rest, and some slight aperient and saline medicines. The hemorrhage did not return till the ninth month, and then slightly, when I was sent for, and finding pains, I proceeded to examine the nature of the presentation. This rather puzzled me, as I had never before met with a case at all similar. It appeared to consist of a considerable collection of vesicles connected together, but perfectly yielding.

"As the hemorrhage abated after the patient laid down, I thought it most prudent not to interfere; and in the course of an hour, after very incon siderable pains, a large mass of hydatids was discharged, and a great quantity of fluid.

"There was no hemorrhage after delivery, and the patient did well. Upon examining the mass, I could find but a small portion of solid substance resembling placenta, the principal part being vesicles, the size of a hazel-nut, filled with fluid, and connected together in the form of grapes, the clustering of which fruit they much resembled. They weighed upwards of five pounds.

"The patient had had two children, with which she went her full time; and I can only account for this by supposing the ovum to have been blighted at the time of the fright by the dogs, which was, no doubt, at an earlier period than the patient states, as I could find no trace of fetus or placenta beyond a portion, having somewhat that appearance, of the size of a walnut."—*Lond. Med. Repos. and Rev. Nov. 1827.*

71. Obstinate Vomiting during Pregnancy.—M. DANCE is of opinion that when during pregnancy, vomiting is protracted beyond the ordinary period, that it

arises from a morbid irritation of the uterus, which together with the membranous decidua, is in a state of inflammation. He has had an opportunity in two cases of testing this opinion by post mortem examinations, and found pus and coagulable lymph between the decidua and internal surface of the uterus, and other symptoms of inflammation. He recommends the employment of decided antiphlogistic measures, applied as near as possible to the uterus, and not to the stomach, which is only sympathetically affected.—*Reperoire Général, No. III.*

72. Cesarian Operation.—Two cases are given in the fifth vol. of the *Journal des Progrès*, in which this operation has been performed with success. The first at the hospital at Florence, on a woman of twenty-three; this was executed in the usual manner, the woman was perfectly cured in thirty days, the child was dead.

The second was performed by Dr. Solera, of Padua, on a woman of thirty-eight; this case being extremely interesting we have extracted it entire.

Mrs. J. B. aged thirty-eight, of a good constitution, conceived for the first time, five months after a second marriage, and shortly after having taken the sulphurous baths at Aix in Savoy. The pregnancy presented nothing that was remarkable; on the morning of the 2d of May, 1825, labour pains came on, Dr. Solera, professor of clinical surgery in the civil and military hospital of Padua, was called in; he found on examination that the orifice of the uterus was completely obliterated, and presented no trace of an opening. Drs. Ballardi and Villani were called in consultation, and confirmed the fact—it was also found that there was no obliquity of the uterus, which might have deceived them in the examination, the head of the fetus was felt above the superior strait, and as the pains continued, they resolved to wait until the next day before deciding on any operation, in the hopes that the uterine contractions would determine a natural opening in the neck of the womb. The patient was twice bled, emollient injections given, and fomentations applied on the vulva and abdomen. The patient passed a bad night, her urine flowed involuntarily in small quantities, and as the abdomen was much distended, the catheter was introduced.

On the next day, Drs. Cristofori, Fortini, and Ottoni, were also called in, and no change having taken place in the patient, it was determined to recur at once to an operation, for fear that a rupture of the uterus should take place, and its contents escape into the cavity of the abdomen. All the physicians were of opinion that the vaginal incision should be resorted to instead of that through the abdomen:—1. From the danger of inflammation of the peritonum and escape of the waters into the abdomen in the latter operation. 2. From the necessity there would be after the extraction of the fetus and secundines, of a new operation to give an issue to the lochial and menstrual discharges—yet the ossification of the coccyx with the sacrum, which existed in this case, contracted the antero-posterior diameter of the lower strait about half an inch, rendering it doubtful whether the fetus could be expelled without recurrence to the forceps. But the accoucheurs did not regard this circumstance as an insurmountable obstacle, and the operation was decided on and performed on the 4th of May. The instruments consisted of a bistoury, similar in its form and size to the hysterotome of Flamant, that is, it was convex, rounded and cutting only at its extremity for about an inch and a half, another bistoury with a narrow strait and pointed blade wrapped with linen, to within a short distance of its point, a third bistoury also narrow, but probe-pointed, and a little convex on its cutting edge. The patient was placed on the edge of a sofa, her head and shoulders slightly elevated by pillows, her feet resting on two low chairs, the operator standing between her thighs, introduced the index finger of the right hand to examine the state of the uterus, and the precise spot for the incision, afterwards having placed on the inside of that finger the rounded and convex bistoury, he introduced it into the vagina, but as the finger could not cover completely the surface of the blade, and thus prevent the lesion of the surrounding parts, the operator relinquished this instrument and made use of the narrow and pointed bistoury, with this he made in the vagina a transverse

incision of an inch and a half in length, and afterwards through the body of the uterus, the third incision divided the membranes, and gave vent to a turbid discharge, an assistant now raised the head of the fetus above the pubis, and the operator with his left hand carried it as far as possible upwards—the incision was now enlarged with the probe-pointed bistoury, to two inches and a half in diameter, the labour pains soon expelled the head of the fetus through this opening, the birth was now left to the efforts of nature, the pains continued violent, and during the morning the head of the child had advanced much, towards evening however they became feeble, and at long intervals, till finally the uterus became powerless. The next morning they were obliged to remove the child by artificial means—after the extraction of the child, which had died before the operation, the placenta was removed, and injections thrown into the cavity of the uterus. The lochia appeared, and flowed by the artificial opening. Thirty days after the operation the patient was doing well, and the opening of the uterus, which was at first a little to the right, occupied the natural position—the patient shortly afterwards perfectly recovered.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.

73. Poisoning with Monkshood.—“A family in the neighbourhood of Lille were poisoned by this plant, in consequence of its roots having been mistaken for those of the *Ligusticum livisticum*, a species of lovage. An old woman had been in the frequent custom of drinking a tincture of the latter plant as a cordial and remedy for pectoral ailments, and usually prepared it herself. One day her complaint being more troublesome than usual, she took an ounce before supper, another after it, and half an ounce more at midnight. She died in the course of the night. Not long afterwards, three individuals in the family drank each of them an ounce of the old woman’s cordial which she left behind her. They were all taken ill in the course of half an hour. One of them had inexpressible anguish, and sense of burning in the throat and stomach, vomiting, purging, tenderness of the epigastrum and cholic, afterwards delirium, manifesting itself in loud cries and violent running; but emetics and emollient drinks calmed his sufferings, and in two days he recovered. Another man of weaker habit of body began to stagger, and appeared intoxicated, then was seized with violent vomiting, purging, and acute cholic pains, and he died in two hours. The third, a young female, complained of a sense of burning and enlargement of the tongue, and then of burning along the gullet down to the abdomen; she was soon after attacked with shivering, swelling of the face, vomiting, purging, and violent cholic, and she died in a state of great agitation, two hours and a half after drinking the cordial. The bodies were examined, and the only appearance of note was great redness of the inner membrane of the stomach and small intestines. A medico-legal examination having been ordered, M. Degland, physician at Lille, discovered that the tincture had been made of the fresh roots of the *Aconitum napellus*.”—*Journal de Chim. Méd. July, 1827.*

74. Extraordinary Suicide.—“A Silesian butcher, who had for some time laboured under severe depression of spirits, surprised his wife in the very act of infidelity with one of his men. The effect was such as to drive him to a state of extraordinary distraction, in which he dashed his head several times against a wall; but finding that this did not accomplish his intention, he seized a cleaver, and struck himself repeatedly with the utmost violence on the forehead with the edge of this instrument, until at length he fell dead from loss of blood, and the violent commotion of the brain. It is conjectured, that he must have inflicted a hundred wounds upon himself before he effected his purpose.

“The outrage was committed in the presence of persons who were able to